

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W
-----161336Z 091091 /46

R 151037Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3846
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
/AMEMBASSY OSLO 123
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 4433

STATE FOR CU/ARTS AND CU/EE USIA FOR ICS AND IEU/SLAWECKI
LONDON FOR RRU PARIS FOR ARS AND USIS STOCKHOLM AND OSLO FOR USIS
VIENNA FOR USIS AND RPO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, RO
SUBJECT: RED CLAY RAMBLERS EUROPEAN FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

REF: STATE 113212

1. SUMMARY: RED CLAY RAMBLERS COUNTRY/FOK MUSIC GROUP OPENED
EUROPEAN FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL ON JUNE 12 WITH ADDITIONAL CONCERTS
HELD JUNE 13 FOR BENEFIT OF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS AND IN AMERICAN
LIBRARY. EXCELLENT MUSICIANS WITH GOOD STAGE PRESENCE AND AP-
PEALING INFORMAL STYLE, RAMBLERS WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED
BY AUDIENCE WITH LITTLE PREVIOUS EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN COUNTRY/FOK
MUSIC. ROMANIAN STATE IMPRESARIAT (ARIA) INEPTNESS LED TO ONLY FAIR
TURN-OUT AT FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE AND INFINITESIMAL AUDIENCE AT
EARTHQUAKE RELIEF PROGRAM. IN CONTRAST AMERICAN LIBRARY PERFORMANCE
DREW OVER 200 INCLUDING TOP COMPOSERS AND CONDUCTORS AND JAZY CLUB
OFFICIALS. GROUP HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO OTHER POSTS. CU/ARTS'
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EFFORTS DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

2. THE RED CLAY RAMBLERS, A GROUP OF FIVE MUSICIAN FROM NORTH
CAROLINE CURRENTLY ON THEIR FIRST EUROPEAN TOUR, WERE THE AMERICAN
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE JUNE 12-19 EUROPEAN FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL SPON-
SORED BY THE COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION.
INDIVIDUALS AND MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. AND CANADA WERE SCHEDULED TO PERFORM DURING THE WEEK'S FESTIVITIES WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE PROGRAMS INVOLVING FOLK MUSIC (HUNGARY AND YUGOSLAVIA ARE OTHER EXAMPLES) OR CLASSICAL MUSIC SOLOISTS. THE RAMBLERS WERE ONE OF FOUR GROUPS TO PERFORM ON OPENING NIGHT, EACH IN A DIFFERENT HALL. THE OTHER PERFORMANCES WERE BY TWO ROMANIAN GROUPS AND A YUGOSLAV FOLK GROUP. THE RAMBLER PERFORMED IN THE BEST SITE, THE SALA PALATULUI (PALACE HALL) WHICH SEATS ABOUT 3,200. UNFORTUNATELY ONLY APPROXIMATELY 85 TO 1,000 ATTENDED THE CONCERT DUE TO THE ROMANIAN BUREAUCRACY'S INEPT HANDLING OF HALL RESERVATION AND PUBLICITY. THE SITE OF THE PERFORMANCE WAS ONLY DECIDED ON JUNE 8TH AND TICKETS WENT ON SALE THE FOLLOWING DAY, THREE DAYS BEFORE THE CONCERT. STILL, THE AUDIENCE INCLUDED MANY MUSIC CRITICS, COMPOSERS AND COUNCIL OFFICIALS INCLUDING SECRETARY OF STATE ROMUS DIMA, NICOLAE COLINOLIU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR ARTS DEPARTMENT AND ARIA DIRECTOR VASILE FLOREA. THE AUDIENCE APPLAUDED WARMLY PARTICULARLY PIECES "MEMPHIS WOMAN" AND ACAPPELLA RENDITION OF RELIGIOUS SONG "DANIEL PRAYED."

3. EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS RELIEF PERFORMANCE WAS SCHEDULED AT SMALLER TANASE THEATRE. INADEQUANCY OF PUBLICITY MORE THAN THE SCHEDULED HOUR (1700) ACCOUNTED FOR TURN-OUT OF ABOUT 60. GROUP PERFORMED WELL DESPITE SOMEWHAT INDIFFERENT AUDIENCE RESPONSE.

4. AMERICAN LIBRARY PERFORMANCE ATTRACTED OVER 200 INCLUDING LEADING COMPOSERS LIVIU GLODEANU AND NICOLAE BRANDUS, JAZZ BASSIST JOHNNY RADUCANU AND PRESIDENTS OF LOCAL JAZZ CLUBS, ARTIST GEORGE APOSTU, MFA OFFICIAL VASILE TRANCA AS WELL AS POLISH PRESS AND CULTURAL ATTACHES, WEST GERMAN CULTURAL ATTACHE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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BULGARIAN PRESS ATTACHE. GROUP PARTICULARLY LIKED INTIMATE SURROUNDINGS AND NEEDED NO AMPLIFICATION TO GET ACROSS THEIR BLEND OF TRADITIONAL FOLK MUSIC AND RENDITIONS OF RAG-TIME MELODIES. THE GROUP'S MEMBERS ALL PERFORM ON AT LEAST TWO INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR VERSATILITY, PLEASANT SINGING VOICES AND DECEPTIVELY INFORMAL PERFORMING STYLE AND STAGE PRESENCE MERITED THE LONG AND ENTHUSIASTIC

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3847

INFO UEHIA/USIA WASHDC 8431

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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APPLAUSE DURING THE TWO HOUR CONCERT. A RECEPTION HOSTED FOLLOWING THE PERFORMANCE WAS ATTENDED BY 50 INVITED GUESTS AND LASTED ANOTHER HOUR. ROMANIAN MUSICIANS WERE WARM IN THEIR PRAISE OF THE INDIVIDUAL TALENTS AND THE GROUP'S STYLE AND FRESHNESS.

5. ON BENEFIT OF THE HASTILY-ARRANGED FESTIVAL WAS INTENSE MEDIA COVERAGE, THE MOST FOR ANY AMERICAN PERFORMING GROUP IN YEARS. UPON ARRIVAL AT THEIR HOTEL THE GROUP WAS ASKED TO GIVE A TV INTERVIEW

W, A RADIO INTERVIEW AND INTERVIEWS TO ROMANIA LIBERA AND SCINTEIA TINERETULUI (NEWSPAPERS). THE FOLLOWING DAY OTHER NEWSPAPERS ASKED FOR INTERVIEWS OR PICKED UP EARLIER ONES. THE CONCERT WAS BROADCAST LIVE ON RADIO AND EXCERPTS WERE SHOWN ON TV JUNE 13 AT 2100. A SOUND MAN AT THE SALA PALATULUI TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST NATIONWIDE BROADCAST OF A FOREIGN PERFORMING GROUP IN HIS EXPERIENCE WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED LIVE AND "WITHOUT RESTRICTONS." THE PRESS INTERVIEWS DEALT WITH THE PERFORMERS' VIEWS OF SUCH FESTIVALS, THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT PERFORMING IN ROMANIAN, ETC. NO PRETENSE WAS MADE ABOUT INTEREST IN THE PARTICULAR MUSICAL FORM OR ITS STATUS IN THE U.S.

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RATHER IT WAS AN ATTEMPT AT HAVING FOREIGN PRAISE FOR ROMANIA'S EFFORTS.

STILL, THE FACT THAT A GROUP PARTICIPATED AND THE WORDS (MORE OR LESS)

) OF AN AMERICAN ARTISTS WERE PUBLISHED WIDELY TENDS TO COUNTER SLIGHTLY

THE OVERALL NEGATIVE TONE ABOUT THE U.S. CARRIED IN RECENT PRESS COVERAGE.

6. DISCUSSION WERE HELD FOLLOWING THE LIBRARY PERFORMANCE WITH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT A COMMERCIAL TOUR FOR THE RAMBLERS

IN 1978. THEY PLAN TO E IN EUROPE AND THE POST WILL TRY TO AR-
RANGE WITH ARIA FO A PROVINCIAL CITY TOUR SIMILAR TO THE RECENT
SUCCESSFUL EFFORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA BLUES. THE POST STRONGLY
RECOMMENDS THE GROUP TO THOSE POSTS SEEKING TALENTED PERFORMERS
WITH A WIDE REPERTORY OF TRADITIONAL FOLK AND UNUSUAL RAGTIME
ARRANGEMENTS.

7. THE POST IS GRATEFUL TO ADDRESSEES FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE. CU/ARTS
DESERVES FULL CREDIT FOR THE GROUP'S LOCAL SUCCESS SINCE IT PROPOSED
THEM, KEPT THE POST FULLY INFORMED OF PROGRAM DETAILS AND ITINERARY
AND PAID THE PROGRAM COSTS. THE POST REALIZES THE SHORT LEAD TIME
GIVEN BY THE ROMANIANS (AND HENCE THE POST) TO CU/ARTS TO LOCATE
AN APPROPRIATE COUNTRY MUSIC GROUP AND THEREFORE ESPECIALLY AP-
PRECIATES THE THOROUGH AND COMPREHENSIVE MANNER IN WHICH THE PROJECT
WAS HANDLED. WHIL WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FOR THE
VISIT OF MAJOR PERFORMING GROUPS TO ROMANIA THIS YEAR THE RAMBLER'S
APPEARANCE IN THE CENTENNIAL-RELATED FESTIVAL VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATES
AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR CULTURALLY-RELATED EVENTS DURING THE CENTENNIAL
YEAR AND CU/ARTS DESERVES CONGRATULATIONS FOR ITS EFFORTS AND GENEROU
S
SUPPORT.
BARNES

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